

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SMS-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 /092 W
-----106168 161418Z /47

R 161025Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8192
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3788

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, SU, UR
SUBJ: NIMEIRI CRITICIZES COMMUNISM

1. PROMINENT POSITION WAS GIVEN IN MEDIA AUGUST 15 TO NIMEIRI STATEMENTS ON COMMUNISM WHICH, HE SAID, HAS BEEN REJECTED BY SUDANESE PEOPLE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND WILL ALWAYS BE REJECTED. NIMEIRI IS QUOTED IN INTERVIEW WITH AL AHRAM IN CAIRO THAT COMMUNISTS WERE ATTEMPTING TO REPLAY 1971 COUP ATTEMPT WITH NEW TACTICS CONSISTING OF INFILTRATION AND GRADUAL CONTROL OF STRATEGIC POSITIONS IN READINESS TO DEAL "FATAL BLOW, AS THEY HAVE DONE IN AFGHANISTAN." NIMEIRI SAID THAT COMMUNISTS INFILTRATE SABOTEURS INTO WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS AND INCITE THEM TO CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT WITH FALSE ISSUES AND TO PUT PUBLIC SERVICES OUT OF COMMISSION.

2. NIMEIRI SPEECH, IRONICALLY, WAS JUXTAPOSED WITH REPORTS IN PRESS SAME DAY THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR FEDOTOV
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HAD MET DAY BEFORE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT SOVIET DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS WOULD BE ARRIVING SOON. THERE EVEN WAS REPEAT IN SUNA OF TASS ITEM MILDLY CRITICAL OF U.S. ARMS SALES.

3. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S ANTI-COMMUNIST REMARKS ARE INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. HIS WORRY ABOUT COMMUNIST

THREATS TO HIS GOVERNMENT IS REAL BUT THIS CONCERN ALSO PROVIDES HANDY ADDITIONAL EXCUSE FOR LABOR UNREST AND POOR PUBLIC SERVICES. ANTI-COMMUNISM REMAINS FUNDAMENTAL FACTOR IN NIMEIRI'S POLICIES. HOWEVER, ITEMS NOTED IN PARA 2 SUGGEST AT LEAST SOME SLIGHT NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS. ITEMS REPORTED IN PARA 2, AND WE ASSUME TASS ITEM REFLECTS ENERGY OF SOME SOVIET EMBOFF RATHER THAN OFFICIAL SUDANESE POLICY, ARE UNREMARKABLE EXCEPT THAT IT HAS BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE ANYTHING EVEN THAT POSITIVE REGARDING SOVIETS HAS HAPPENED HERE. BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

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